



Information for Independent, Minor Party, and Indigent Candidates for 2022 Federal Election

Montana Secretary of State

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◆ Filing Deadlines ([13-10-503](#), MCA)

- **May 31, 2022** Deadline to submit signed petitions with affidavits of petition signature gatherers to county election administrator.
- **June 6, 2022** Deadline to file Candidate Declaration and Oath of Candidacy, and pay filing fee (unless indigent) with appropriate filing officer.
- Note: Candidate ballot access is dependent on filing of required campaign finance forms. Contact the Commissioner of Political Practices at <http://politicalpractices.mt.gov>, by email at cpphelp@mt.gov, or (406) 444-2942 for campaign finance information.

◆ Links (*the first link is a PDF filing form for candidates to print, complete, sign in front of a notary, and submit with the filing fee in person or via mail, fax, or email to the appropriate filing office*):

[Independent, Minor Party, or Indigent Candidate Declaration, Oath of Candidacy, and Petition Affidavit of Petition Signature Gatherer](#)
[County Election Administrators](#)
[2022 Offices, Qualifications, and Fees](#)
[2022 Candidate Calendar](#)
[2022 Election Calendar](#)
[Title 13 Election Laws](#)
[Secretary of State](#)

◆ Where to File

- Candidates submit signed petitions with affidavits of petition signature gatherer forms to the county election administrator of the corresponding county of the petition signers. (e.g. sheets of Gallatin County signers are submitted to the Gallatin County Election Administrator) AND:
 - Candidates for federal, statewide, state district, and legislative offices file their Declaration and Oath of Candidacy and filing fee with the Secretary of State.
 - Candidates for local offices file their Declaration and Oath of Candidacy and filing fee with the county election administrator.

◆ Signature Requirements ([13-10-502](#), MCA)

- 5% or more of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for the same office at the last general election:

2022 Offices		Votes Cast for Successful Candidate for the Same Office at the Last General Election	Certified Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful Candidate)
✓	US Representative District #1, 2-year term	164,392	8220
✓	US Representative District #2, 2-year term	174,432	8722
✓	Public Service Commissioner #1, 4-year term*	44,990	2,250
✓	Public Service Commissioner #5, 4-year term*	60,434	3,022
✓	State Senator, 4-year term	Varies	See chart on page 4
✓	State Representative, 2-year term	Varies	See chart on page 5

◆ Other Important Candidate Information

- Candidates filing for Public Service Commission District #1 and #5 are notified that there is current litigation (Brown v. Jacobsen No. CV 21-92-H-DWM(D. Mont. Dec. 22, 2021), 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 244448) regarding the PSC districting system. Candidates may file for office; however, SOS is temporarily enjoined from certifying candidates for the 2022 Primary Ballot.
- There is **no earliest date** to gather candidate petition signatures or to submit signed candidate petitions to county election administrators. However, the candidate declaration form cannot be filed with the appropriate filing officer before January 13, 2022.
- Independent Candidates:
 - ✓ Under [13-10-507](#), MCA, a person seeking office as an independent candidate may **not** be associated with a political party for 1 year prior to the submission of the person's nomination petition.
 - For the purposes of the law, "associated with a political party" means having run for office in Montana as a partisan candidate or having held a public office in Montana or a precinct committee representative office in Montana with a political party designation.
 - ✓ Individuals cannot file as independent candidates (or as party candidates) for nonpartisan offices.
- Qualified independent and minor party candidates appear on the **general election** ballot only.
- Under [13-10-602](#), MCA, a political party and its regularly nominated candidates, members, and officers have the sole and exclusive right to the use of the party name. A candidate for office may not use any word of the name of any other political party or organization other than that by which the candidate is nominated in a manner that indicates or implies the individual is a candidate of the nonnominating party. An independent or nonpartisan candidate may not use any word of the name of any existing political party or organization in the candidacy in a manner that indicates or implies that the individual is a candidate of that party or organization.
- An individual who files as an **indigent** candidate is not required to pay a filing fee and must submit the same total number of signatures as an independent or minor party candidate. A candidate who files as an indigent-independent candidate or as an indigent-minor party candidate is only required to file one set of petition signatures.
 - ✓ An individual who files as an **indigent major party** candidate must submit signatures to county election officials by March 7, 2022, one week before the March 14th deadline to file the major party declaration for nomination.
 - ✓ An individual who files as an **indigent independent or minor party** candidate must submit signatures to county election officials by May 31, 2022, one week before the June 6th deadline to file the independent/minor party declaration for nomination.

- ✓ An individual who files as an **indigent write-in** candidate:
 - For the **primary** election, candidates must submit signatures to county election officials by April 6, 2022, one week before the April 13th, 2022 deadline to file the write-in declaration for nomination.
 - For the **general** election, candidates must submit signatures to county election officials by September 7, 2022, one week before the September 14th, 2022 deadline to file the write-in declaration for nomination.



Signatures Required in 2022 for Independent, Minor Party, or Indigent Candidates for State Senator

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Senate Dist.	Last Successful State Senator Candidate	Votes for Last Successful State Senator Candidate	Certified Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful State Senator Candidate)
1	Mike Cuffe	7333	367
4	Mark W. Blasdel	5626	282
5	Bob Keenan	8048	403
8	Susan A. Webber	5443	273
9	Bruce (Butch) Gillespie	6347	318
11	Tom Jacobson	4706	236
12	Carlie Boland	3680	184
13	Brian Hoven	3315	166
14	Russel E Tempel	4526	227
15	Ryan Osmundson	9511	476
19	Kenneth Bogner	7334	367
20	Duane Ankney	8226	412
22	Douglas "Doug" Kary	5120	256
24	Mary McNally	4608	231
27	Cary L. Smith	8671	434
29	David Howard	7351	368
30	John Esp	6254	313
32	Pat Flowers	5979	299
33	Jennifer "JP" Pomnichowski	9627	482
34	Gordon "Gordy" Vance	6395	320
41	Janet Ellis	6065	304
42	Jill Cohenour	5556	278
43	Jason W. Ellsworth	6990	350
48	Nate McConnell	6427	322
49	Diane Sands	5579	279
50	Bryce Bennett	8127	407



Signatures Required in 2022 for Independent, Minor Party, or Indigent Candidates for State Representative

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House Dist.	Last Successful State Representative Candidate	Votes for Last Successful State Representative Candidate	Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful State Representative Candidate)	House Dist.	Last Successful State Representative Candidate	Votes for Last Successful State Representative Candidate	Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful State Representative Candidate)
1	Steve Gunderson	3721	187	51	Frank Fleming	2638	132
2	Neil A Duram	5080	254	52	Jimmy Patelis	2341	118
3	Braxton Mitchell	3586	180	53	Dennis Lenz	8025	402
4	Matt Regier	5922	297	54	Terry Moore	4459	223
5	Dave Fern	4482	225	55	Vince Ricci	4473	224
6	Amy Regier	5187	260	56	Sue Vinton	4444	223
7	Frank Garner	3089	155	57	Fiona Nave	5104	256
8	John Fuller	5108	256	58	Seth Berglee	4587	230
9	Brian Putnam	4142	208	59	Marty Malone	4594	230
10	Mark Noland	5371	269	60	Laurie Bishop	3776	189
11	Derek Skees	5358	268	61	Jim Hamilton	6200	310
12	Linda Reksten	3739	187	62	Ed Stafman	5924	297
13	Paul C. Fielder	4792	240	63	Alice Buckley	3602	181
14	Denley M. Loge	5185	260	64	Jane Gillette	4578	229
15	Marvin R. Weatherwax Jr	2908	146	65	Kelly Kortum	5906	296
16	Tyson T Runningwolf	3237	162	66	Denise Hayman	5321	267
17	Ross H Fitzgerald	4452	223	67	Jedediah Hinkle	4154	208
18	Llew Jones	3844	193	68	Caleb Hinkle	4293	215
19	Wendy McKamey	4288	215	69	Jennifer Carlson	5801	291
20	Fred Anderson	4357	218	70	Julie Dooling	6527	327
21	Ed Buttrey	3390	170	71	Kenneth M Walsh	5653	283
22	Lola Sheldon-Galloway	2572	129	72	Tom Welch	5488	275
23	Scot Kerns	2079	104	73	Jim Keane	3043	153
24	Steven Galloway	2363	119	74	Derek J. Harvey	2861	144
25	Steve Gist	2287	115	75	Marta Bertoglio	4729	237
26	Jeremy Trebas	1689	85	76	Donavon Hawk	3843	193
27	Josh J Kassmier	4911	246	77	Sara Novak	3057	153
28	Ed Hill	2296	115	78	Gregory L. Frazer	2231	112
29	Dan Bartel	4761	239	79	Rob Farris-Olsen	3749	188
30	E. Wylie Galt	4559	228	80	Becky Beard	5733	287
31	Frank J. Smith	2820	141	81	Mary Caferro	3478	174
32	Jonathan Windy Boy	2244	113	82	Moffie Funk	3446	173
33	Casey Knudsen	4346	218	83	Kim Abbott	3021	152
34	Rhonda Knudsen	4914	246	84	Mary Ann Dunwell	3256	163
35	Brandon Ler	4760	238	85	Michele Binkley	5303	266
36	Bob Phalen	4728	237	86	David Bedey	5067	254
37	Jerry Schillinger	5457	273	87	Ron Marshall	5029	252
38	Kenneth Holmlund	4006	201	88	Sharon Greef	5587	280
39	Geraldine Custer	4940	247	89	Katie Sullivan	3374	169
40	Barry Usher	4783	240	90	Marilyn Marler	4018	201
41	Rynalea Whiteman Pena	1829	92	91	Connie Keogh	5651	283
42	Sharon Stewart Peregoy	2778	139	92	Mike Hopkins	3249	163
43	Kerri Seekins-Crowe	3553	178	93	Joe Read	2974	149
44	Larry Brewster	3288	165	94	Tom France	3332	167
45	Katie Zolnikov	4996	250	95	Danny Tenenbaum	4076	204
46	Bill Mercer	4265	214	96	Kathy Whitman	3709	186
47	Kathy Kelker	2485	125	97	Brad Tschida	3577	179
48	Jessica L Karjala	2697	135	98	Willis Curdy	3583	180
49	Emma Kerr-Carpenter	2183	110	99	Mark Thane	4088	205
50	Mallerie Stromswold	2229	112	100	Andrea Olsen	5336	267